



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

June 5, 2006

EVENT: Forum

SAFE CHILD FORM

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today that he will be hosting an informational forum on his office's Child Protection Initiative. The program will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m., doors will open at 6:30 p.m. at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium located at 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan. Mr. Murphy stated that "The goal of this forum is to educate parents, teachers and law enforcement officials about the hidden dangers of the Internet and how we can better protect our children from predators who seek to use the Internet as a means for carrying out pernicious behavior."

The forum comes in response to the recent surge in crimes against our children. As technology advances and as the Internet becomes more accessible, the number of computer-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes committed against children is expected to continue to grow. The United States Attorney's Office has successfully charged and convicted a disturbingly high – and increasing number of criminal defendants in the past year who have engaged in despicable acts of criminality that endanger the safety and innocence of our community's most precious asset: our children. Child pornography, human trafficking, interstate transportation of minors for the purpose of engaging in criminal sexual conduct and

other sorts of predatory activity upon children are all federal offenses which the U.S. Attorney's Office has vigorously pursued, however, more can and will be done. United States Attorney Murphy formally committed today to doing all he can to protect our children through the tough enforcement of federal criminal law.

Therefore, in response to these troubling trends, and in conjunction with Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' Project Safe Childhood, United States Attorney Murphy has established a Child Protection Initiative that is intended to ensure that we are doing everything we possibly can to protect and take care of our district's children. Specifically, prosecutors intend to seek the maximum legally permissible sentences in such cases, and will intensify and redouble enforcement and community education programs to prevent, detect, punish and deter horrendous crimes against children. These efforts are specifically designed to prosecute those who prey on children, to put them in prison, and to make sure that they are not free to hurt others through additional degenerate acts. Cooperation with other federal, state and local law enforcement entities to address this problem is a top priority.

Speakers at the forum will include United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorcyca, Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Andrew Oosterbaan, the Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., as well as Assistant U.S. Attorneys John O'Brien and Gary Felder.

The event is open to the public at no charge. For more information, contact Gina Balaya at (313) 226-9100.